

INSTITUTE OF NEW ANTIBIOTICS

Bolshaia Pirogovskaia, 11
Moscow, USSR

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Dear Professor Lederberg,

Many thanks for your letter of August 6. There are two points which should be mentioned in connection with our more recent work on induction of macro-mutants. Firstly, that this induction is somewhat sporadic and difficult to reproduce. Secondly, that many induced mutants with altered DNA base composition are not very viable, and perish in a few months in subcultures. The latter observation perhaps indicates that they are genuine, and not due to any contamination. I should be happy if these results could be reproduced in different laboratories.

At the moment I am much interested in a recent report of your colleague Dr Stanley Cohen concerning possible transplantation of streptomycin genes into E. coli. Have these results been already published in a scientific journal? I should be grateful if you could send me any information on this point.

I am leaving tomorrow for Geneva, to participate in a WHO meeting on screening for antitumor products.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours

↓

G.F. Gause

Professor G.F. Gause,
Director